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FROM-Praxair, Inc.

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T-011 P.006/015 F-018

CS-21,295  
U.S. Serial No. 10/643,986

- 1 -

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No.: 10/643,986

**BOX AF**

Group Art Unit: 1753

Inventor: P. McDonald

Filed: August 20, 2003

Title: METHOD OF TREATING  
SPUTTERING TARGET TO REDUCE  
BURN-IN TIME AND SPUTTERING  
TARGET THEREOF AND  
APPARATUS THEREOF

Examiner: S. Versteeg

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**APR 07 2006**

**REPLY AND AMENDMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

**VIA FAX – (571) 273-8300**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action issued October 11, 2005. The Examiner set a three-month period for response. A petition and authorization for a three-month extension of time are attached, making this Reply and Amendment due on or before April 11, 2006. In addition, a Notice of Appeal is filed concurrently herewith.

**Amendments to the Claims** appear on Page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** appear on Page 6 of this paper.